

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: March 11, 2020
Time: 10:00am
Place: Town Hall
Egremont

Present at the table were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie.

Others in attendance: Jim Noe, Jason LaForest, Bill Tynan, David Seligman.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

Road Superintendent Jim Noe asked for an additional \$5,000 for vehicle repairs and maintenance for a total of \$46,100. With fuel the total budget request was approved at \$61,100.

After discussion the Board agreed to a special article for blacktopping in the amount of \$150,000. This will enable the Highway Department to resurface 3-5 miles of road. Creamery Road will be resurfaced using chapter 90 funds. A MassWorks grant will be applied for to resurface Route 71.

Police Chief Jason LaForest presented two budgets with calculations. One budget adds a 4th Full-time Police Officer, while the other keeps the current make up the department. The Board voted unanimously, after discussion, to support a 4th Full-time officer and present that budget in the amount of \$304,165 for collective bargaining.

The Board discussed with Bill Tynan and David Seligman the Conservation Commission's request for \$1,000 for digital video equipment to view plans and \$3,000 for clerical help. The Board ultimately unanimously approved the request as well as the \$1,000 for the Agent and an expense budget of \$1605.

The Board reviewed the latest version of the Water Department budget and approved the proposed total of \$239,994 with some reservations.

The Board discussed the request to change the retiree benefits premium split from 50/50 to 75%/25%. Selectboard member Brazie recused. The Board agreed to support and present to Town Meeting as a part of the costs of the town's health insurance benefits.

Based on the information given by Juliette Haas in regards to converting Town Hall to a mini-split heating system the Board agreed not to move forward with the grant application for phase 1 of the project. The total cost is over \$200,000.

The Board approved the following budget requests:

Berkshire County Retirement	\$187,101	
Unemployment Insurance	\$10,000	
Social Security Medicare	\$17,000	
Treasurer/Collector expenses	\$12,995	
Compactor Operation	\$105,295	- the board deleted the budget item for a

	screening a fence.
Literacy Network	\$400
Berkshire South Reg Comm Ctr	\$2,000
Eagle Fund	\$1,000
Construct, Inc.	\$1,500
Railroad Street Youth	\$1,500
Egremont Garden Club	\$275

The Board withheld action on the following budget requests for more information:

Debt Schedule, specifically the Mount Washington Road project
 Email Archiving
 French Park Committee
 Property & Casualty
 Health Insurance

The Board discussed remote participation by the public in meetings. Mary will find out what other town's are doing.

Meeting adjourned at 11:54am.

Mary Brazie,
 Office Administrator

minutes.20/mar11

The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.